



TESTIMONY
of the
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
to the
COMMERCE COMMITTEE

February 26, 2009

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local governments - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 93% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony to you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

CCM has concerns with Committee Bill 6097 "*An Act Concerning Brownfields Development Projects*" as currently drafted.

This proposal appears to seek to make strides toward improving the brownfield remediation process and limiting the liability of entities seeking to take on such projects but who is not responsible for the contamination.

However, lines 177-180 significantly expand the liability of municipalities or economic development agencies that "exacerbate" the conditions of a brownfield. The very nature of remediation requires disturbing soil and can exacerbate the situation in the short term while working toward a clean-up. In addition, there is always the potential that the extent of contamination cannot be fully understood until soil is disturbed, which can also lead to an exacerbation of the situation.

Passage of such an expansion of liability on entities seeking to clean-up these properties will only serve to create a chilling effect on undertaking such projects.

CCM urges the committee **amend this bill to alleviate any additional liability being imposed, before taking any action** on this bill.

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If you have any questions, please contact Kachina Walsh-Weaver, Senior Legislative Associate of CCM via email kweaver@ccm-ct.org or via phone (203) 498-3026.